

Application No. 09/608,135
Amendment dated June 6, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action dated December 6, 2005
Express Mail EV 907794993 US

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting network usage data about users accessing a network and resources thereon without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:

obtaining an identifier at a network service provider representing one or more users of a computer network;

creating an anonymized identifier ~~at the network service provider~~ using the ~~obtained~~ identifier obtained from the network service provider;

collecting data being transmitted across the computer network at a collection engine connected to the network service provider;

associating the anonymized identifier with the collected data through the collection engine if the collected data is sent to or from the one or more users to create a transaction record; and

storing the transaction record by the collection engine in a database separate from the network service provider.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network (MSISDN) number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a static Internet Protocol (IP) address.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier and a security key.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Secure Hashing Algorithm 1 (SHA-1).
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 4 (MD4) algorithm.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 5 (MD5) algorithm.
9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Digital Encryption Standard (DES).
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining an identifier representing one or more users of a computer network includes:
 - receiving packets at the network service provider sent by an authentication server ~~at the network service provider~~; and
 - extracting an identifier at the network service provider from the received packets.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a RADIUS authentication server.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the received packets are RADIUS authentication packets.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.
14. (Canceled)

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15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)